

THE HEADLIGHT.

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NO REVENUES IN LEGISLATION—THE PUBLIC BUSINESS FIRST.

For the first time since defined political lines came to prevail in New Mexico, the House of Representatives is Democratic. Though the majority is small, it is enough, and there is no sufficient pretext for increasing it by undue changes in the membership.

As a rule, there properly are no revenues in politics. What the public judgment has decreed at the polls should stand, at least till that public judgment has had opportunity to reverse or sustain itself. The Legislature, four and two years ago, reorganized itself by force and fraud. The people have in good degree rebuked that policy in the late elections.

That verdict of the people should stand—neither narrowed or broadened. Though the temptation is great to repeat upon those who were the instigators of past outrages the not illogical consequences of their acts, in retaliation in kind, it would be bad policy. Much valuable time of the last Legislature was worse than wasted in mock investigations ostensibly for the purpose of determining the rights of Democratic members to their seats, but really in seeking some plausible excuse for their expulsion.

Upon the organization of the Legislature, every hour of its time belongs to the public for the transaction of public business—not in seeking pretexts for revenge or retaliation. The sixty days time allowed for the session is short for the work required, and will soon be gone. The fittest way to vindicate the election of that majority is to proceed at once to the work for which it was selected—the repeal of the obnoxious and mischievous action of two years ago, and the enactment of needed laws. A legislative body acts not for itself, nor for any party, but for all the people, irrespective of parties and of mere partisan considerations.

The Territory is to be re-apportioned for the election of future Legislatures. That is an important matter and one that will require time, and should be entered upon at once. A perfectly fair, non-partisan apportionment should be assured before adjournment.

Our revenue system should be thoroughly overhauled and perfected. The last two Legislatures were repeatedly urged by the then Executive to action on this subject, and the Finance Bill was at last secured, as a part, only, though a vitally important part, of the system then proposed. The creation of the office of county surveyor is another very important part of the system urged, that yet remains to be done. Very large amounts of property fail to contribute to the public revenues by reason of the impossibility of properly describing such property on the tax rolls. The ratio of taxation could be materially reduced by this provision. Those who do pay are thus forced to pay more than their just proportion.

The present methods of assessing and collecting the taxes are imperfect and needlessly expensive. There are too many high salaried and high fee officials, with too little to do, in the revenue department of the Territory.

There is no occasion for the consumption of time in the elaboration of measures for the correction of these evils. Nearly every Western state has spent years in the preparation of their various revenue systems. They are the outgrowth of long years of revision and amendment, and under conditions quite similar in all essential particulars to our own. It would be difficult to go amiss in the selection and adoption of almost any of them for New Mexico. This very necessary work could thus be greatly simplified and facilitated.

Almost our entire revenue system needs to be overhauled. What is most needed is thorough and honest devotion to the work, and prompt, decisive action—no time wasted in revenge or useless retaliation.

It is reported that the Kansas City packing company, of Boston, has assigned, and that the Kansas City end of the business has been attached for \$700,000.

THE SCHOOL LAW AND STATEHOOD.

With a Democratic House, there is reasonable hope of early statehood for New Mexico. That body has it in its power, by conservative and judicious action, to correct the impression created in large parts of the country, and especially among members of Congress, that the people of New Mexico are not yet prepared for statehood. The defeat of the school bill, two years ago, was fatal to all hope of admission for the time being. That obstacle can now be overcome by the prompt enactment of the defeated bill with such amendments and improvements, if any, as time and discussion have shown to be necessary. It will be in the power of the House to force the Unsettled to agree to at least a satisfactory bill or accept the responsibility of its defeat. This is the first step to be taken if we wish or expect admission for New Mexico will never be admitted until that is done. Then an appeal to Congress can be successfully made for an Enabling Act. There are many important things for this Legislature to do, but the prompt passage of a good and effective school law is first and foremost of all.

Among the results of the elections are a certain increase of four, and probably six, Democrats in the Senate. The retiring Republican senators who are certain or likely to be succeeded by Democrats, are Ingalls of Kansas, Farwell of Illinois, Blair of New Hampshire, Evans of New York, Moody of South Dakota, and Spooner of Wisconsin. In view of this decided gain, and of the certainty that the "campaign of education" under the inspiration of which these gains have been made, will go on, it is not at all impossible that the Democrats will capture the Senate in the elections of 1892.

The Las Vegas Stock Grower makes the timely and pertinent suggestion to the Legislature absent to assemble, that with the experience of California and Colorado to be governed by, New Mexico should be able to enact a model irrigation law. It is badly needed, and the subject should receive the careful and intelligent consideration of every member. The law should be so framed as to permit of no monopoly of water, and, at the same time, be so liberal in its provisions as to encourage capital to carry to a successful conclusion the many great irrigation schemes which have already been undertaken or projected for the territory.

Judge Seeds has decided the Santa Fe and Taos county contested election cases in favor of the Republican. This makes the council stand Republicans 7, Democrats 5. Catron, Chavez, Perea, and Jaramillo, the gang that defeated the school bill, are again in the council with a corresponding majority behind them. It is to be hoped that the development of the trend of public opinion on their bastard constitution with its now-you-see-it and now-you-don't-see-it school clause, will be considered an admonition to them to do better next time.

Since above was put in type, we are in receipt of the following in relation to the Catron contest:

(Report to the Democrats.) Santa Fe, N. M., Nov. 20.—The board of commissioners met by order of Judge Seeds this morning and counted precincts one, two and sixteen. Wyllie favored counting all, but Dr. Sloan and Martinez refused to count precinct eight, the precinct that lost the ballot box. The board reported their action to Judge Seeds, and he issued an order to Sheriff Chavez to imprison Dr. Sloan and Martinez, and both were taken to jail under the laws of the territory. Three justices of the peace can grant a writ of habeas corpus. These justices of the peace were in readiness in anticipation of Judge Seeds' decision, the same as he anticipated the board's decision and had a mandamus ready for service. The justices issued a writ of habeas corpus, had a hearing and discharged the prisoners. Had this action not been taken it is said the men would not have remained in jail many hours.

An attempt to rob the Texas-Pacific east bound train was made near the town of Kent, east of El Paso, on Tuesday night. One of the would-be robbers had weakened and informed the railroad officials, who put guards on the train. The attack was made by others of the gang as arranged, and two of them were shot and the balance scattered in the dark.

A bridge across the Kaw river, immediately west of Kansas City, gave way on Monday while a stock train was crossing, and precipitated five cars into the river. One man was killed and sixty hogs drowned.

Portrait of An American Miner in Mexico.

(Chicago Tribune.)

"We have just had a rilling from the Treasury Department concerning one that not only deserves a large number of American enterprises of an enormous revenue, but it actually keeps money out of the Treasury and puts it into foreign enterprises."

So spoke James P. Matthews, President and manager of the mining company that is operating the great mines in the State of Durango, Mexico. One of the largest smelting works in the world is in El Paso and a great deal of ore is brought there to be smelted and made into silver. The works have had an enormous amount of business from the rich mining districts of Mexico, and besides what stops there a vast quantity has been going to Denver, Omaha, and other American cities for smelting and refining. But under the present tariff law and the ruling of Secretary Windom this vast trade will go to England and come back to us refined at a much lower rate per ton of refined than the charges under the present law for crude ore. This was what Gen. Matthews was explaining in the language quoted. He said:

"We have at El Paso now a train of ore containing twenty thousand tons of silver and thirty per cent of lead—500 pounds of lead to a ton. Now, the duty on this, under the clause taxing lead and silver ores 1 1/2 cents per pound, would be \$750 per ton. But Mr. Windom, according to his valuation, says it is a purely lead ore and not lead and silver ore in the meaning of that 1 1/2 cents a pound clause, and he orders it taxed at \$200 per ton—in other words, five cents a pound, as shown by the assay, allowing no loss in smelting. At the ore assays thirty per cent lead—500 pounds per ton—this ruling demands a tariff of five cents a pound on the total assay, but as all smelting is charged with at least 10 per cent loss this \$200 per ton tariff is to be paid on 500 pounds of lead—over 5 1/2 cents a pound."

"Of course this keeps our ore out of the United States. And it keeps money out, too. And it keeps many an honest American workman out of a job, and takes thousands of tons of freight from our railroads. That's the way the McKinley bill helps American workmen and builds up American industries. It gives you a few figures."

"Had the ore been allowed to come in as before, at 1 1/2 cents duty, it would have been smelted at American smelters at \$4 a ton, assayed by American assays at another good figure, hauled by American railroads at \$2 a ton, and the total would have paid the Government a good revenue. How is it now? We lose all the above, American workmen lose the benefits of it in every handling, our home industries in a foreign country, shall not, of course, bring another sound of ore into the United States. I have already obtained cheap freight rates to England, and all our ore will be taken right there and refined and returned to this country. Thus, I repeat, not only do we lose all this, but the very country we are protecting to protect our people against—England—is built up correspondingly as we lose."

"Mr. Windom instructs collectors of customs, in arriving at the value of silver ores, to allow 5 per cent for loss in smelting; but, with lead, he instructs to value it at the frontier one cent below the New York price, and allow nothing for loss in smelting. So, when lead in New York is four cents, at El Paso and along the Rio Grande it is to be valued at three cents, and yet the smelters in El Paso can only pay one and one-half cents for lead in ore. And Denver, which is more accessible to the East, only pays one and one-half cents. Still, Mr. Windom, obeying the mandates of this McKinley bill, wants one and one-half cents higher valuation put on lead in El Paso than Denver pays for it. The highest price paid by Denver for a four-cent New York market is only two cents—or 40 cents a unit."

There are apprehensions of serious Indian trouble in the northwest. The idea has found lodgment that an Indian Messiah is soon to appear, when the dead Indians and buffaloes will reappear on the earth—the whites driven out, and the old order of Indian sovereignty be re-established. Many have become so thoroughly imbued with this belief, that they are unmanageable, and the craze is spreading. Gen. Miles is in command, however, and will doubtless be able to speedily subdue any outbreak that may occur.

A Mrs. Tillie McClung, of Winfield, Kans., was arrested on the train at Albuquerque Wednesday morning. She was fleeing to Mexico with her three children, whom she had abducted from her divorced husband to whom the court had given their charge.

The case was heard before Judge Lee on Thursday, and Mrs. McClung was released on a writ of habeas corpus and left that night, passing through Deming last evening for Guaymas, Mexico.

The Mine & Lariat is the title of a new Democratic paper at Magdalena, Socorro Co., by McGee and Gibson. It starts in well and is deserving of success, which we trust it may achieve.

Silver keeps falling. It is now down to 102. When it touches bottom, the Wall street pirates will buy, for sale to their friend Windom when the price at the Treasury window suits them.

A railroad wreck near Lock Haven, Pa., last Wednesday. Two men were killed and several others injured.

Ex-Delegate Carey, Republican, was on the 15th elected U. S. Senator from Wyoming.

Judge J. D. Wilds, a leading attorney and justice of the peace of Albuquerque, whose home was originally in Paducah, died on Tuesday. Judge Wilds was a capable, honest man, and a valuable citizen.

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Socorro is trying to induce the county commissioners to build a bridge across the Rio Grande at that point. It is much needed and would add greatly to the prosperity of Socorro.

The residence of Hon. Amado Chavez, in western Valencia county, was practically destroyed by an incendiary fire on Tuesday night last.

Girls and Thanksgiving.

(Ladies Home Journal.) (Ladies Home Journal.) The time has come for every girl to make Thanksgiving. Somebody sighs and wonders what they have to be thankful for; somebody else is very positive that it is certain she has nothing to be thankful for; but there isn't a human being on the face of God's earth who can't find something for which to say, "I thank Thee, oh God." One girl has that greatest of all blessings—good health; another the blessing of a bright, happy home; another, though she lives on an invalid's couch, the blessing of sunshine and the consideration of those who are less afflicted. One is glad because on her third finger is a bright ring that means she has become mistress of somebody's heart; and another is glad because worry and troubles are all swallowed up in that great peaceful work. It will do more for you and for me when our hearts are full of sorrow, and our eyes sore with unshed tears, to feel that the hands must be busy and the brain must be at work. If on Thanksgiving Day you can do nothing else, go down on your knees and say thank God for work. It is the best gift that out of His plenty He can offer you.

The Corn Situation.

Prime, the crop expert, in his remarks last week, says in regard to corn: "Take Nebraska as a whole and from 40 to 50 per cent of the crop has now been gathered. A large proportion of the crop is light and chaffy. In southern Nebraska farmers are disappointed with regard to the yield, and the quality was not as good as was expected. The surplus corn in Kansas this year will be small. In southern Iowa the crop is turning out poorly in quantity and quality. Large corn dealers report that they are receiving calls every day for corn to go to Nebraska. Some of the Iowa railroad officials report that there is as much grain moving west as east. Feeders are taking all the old corn they can find at from forty-five to fifty cents in preference to the new, which is selling at thirty cents for seventy pounds. Taking the State of Illinois, as a whole, the crop is poor in quality and small in quantity. In the largest corn producing counties, corn is yielding but a little more than half as much as last year. Possibly sixty per cent of the crop of 1889."

At this writing it seems very likely that the legislature have carried the New Mexico constitution by a safe majority in both houses. That they have done so is due the old record of the last republican legislature, and the democratic party will now find itself on trial before the same tribunal that has just condemned the republican party—the bar of public opinion. Should it frame a good school law, and other beneficial legislation demanded by the people, there will be placed to the credit of that party much that will be remembered with gratitude in the future. Failure to keep its fair promises will visit upon the democracy the same condemnation by which it now profits. [San Juan Co. Index—Rep.]

A McKinley Schedule.

Here is a news item from the home of President Harrison, Indianapolis, which gives us some insight into the operation of the McKinley bill:

The coppers at Polk's casing factory went out on a strike yesterday against a reduction of wages. The coppers have been receiving eleven cents per 100 cans, and on Saturday the wages were reduced to eight cents. Polk gave as a reason for the reduction that the McKinley bill had advanced the price of cans and he could not afford to pay the old wages. The men complain of many abuses at the factory, and say that the reduction would not permit them to earn more than \$5 per week.

While several agencies have been actively at work in bringing about the republican defeat, the primary instrumentality, and the one which alone would have been sufficient to account for the setback, is the McKinley tariff act. The elections mark a new epoch in tariff legislation. In the realm of customs revision on the McKinley plus the last chapter has been closed, and the word *finis* has been written. Hereafter tariff revision will mean a reduction and not an increase in rates. [Globe Dem.]

Commissioner Douglas says that the election reminds him of the old colored preacher, who referred to a disagreeable event as the work of "an all-wise but unscrupulous Providence."

South Dakota has gone Democratic, and with a majority of seven on joint ballot in the Legislature the Democrats will elect Senator Moody's successor.

Best Sugar.

Utah is soon to have a best sugar factory. The contract for erecting a plant to cost \$400,000 was signed a few days ago. The Utah best sugar company is to pay for the erection of this building and E. H. Dyer & Co., of Alameda, California, are to purchase the machinery and furnish the technical skill to operate the works for one season. To supply the factory with beets will require the cultivation of 2,000 acres of land producing twenty tons of beets an acre, making an aggregate of 40,000 tons to run during the season of about 110 days. The factory will pay \$4.50 per ton for the beets. Thirty tons of seed will be distributed among the farmers. The factory will give employment to about 100 men. After the sugar is extracted there will be left 15,000 tons of pulp worth \$1 a ton as cattle feed.

The sugar beet is a prolific crop wherever it has been tried in New Mexico. It grows to an enormous size and requires no more care than any of the ordinary agricultural crops. The Minerva Valley is in every way well adapted to its successful cultivation. What is in the way of having a best sugar factory here in Deming and making our own sugar.

The postoffice department invited Sig Weisbe, the Carlsbad postmaster, to furnish what knowledge he possessed in regard to the desirability and practicability of a postal route between Carlsbad and Silver City via Rellito. Sig informed the department that such a route was desirable, but the only vehicle with which it could be successfully traveled was a balloon.

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